



## NEWS RELEASE

### Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests Thunder Basin National Grassland

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/mbr/news>

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#### **Delays Expected on the Red Dirt/Buffalo Park Road**

(Steamboat Springs, Co. June 25, 2009) – Delays or temporary closure of Forest Road 100, which goes from US 40 on Rabbits Ears Pass to Red Dirt northwest of Kremmling, can be expected beginning Monday, June 29, 2009 and extending throughout the summer as contractors remove thousands of dead and dying lodgepole pine trees along the roadside. Tree removal will begin at the Forest boundary on the southern end of the road and continue north, approximately 20 miles, to its junction with US Hwy 40. Every attempt will be made to minimize impacts to Forest visitors by using “flaggers” to keep traffic moving. However, there may still be instances when temporary closure of the road is necessary. Signs indicating delays and/or closures will be posted on major roads accessing Forest Road 100. People may also call the Routt National Forest at 970-870-2299 for the most current information.

In March of this year, the Routt National Forest received \$2.2 million dollars in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds to remove beetle-killed trees from roadsides in Routt, Jackson, and Grand counties. The Red Dirt Road, from the Forest boundary to US Hwy 40, is one of several roads that will be cleared using the ARRA funding. Tree removal is expected to maintain access for the public, emergency vehicles, and to power lines and communication sites. It is also expected to increase firefighter safety and ingress/egress in the event of forest fires, as well as creating fuel breaks to help contain fires.

Closures to Forest roads may be frustrating for Forest visitors, but removing hazardous trees is important for public safety. Dead trees can fall without warning, endangering people and blocking roads. Please watch out for falling trees and use caution when visiting your National Forest.

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